

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 /058 W
-----141346Z 062750 /50

R 140853Z JUN 77
FM AMCONSUL HAMBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4259
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION BERLIN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAMBURG 712

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJECT: GUENTHER JANSEN AND THE SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN SPD

REF: HAMBURG 521

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH GUENTHER JANSEN IS A SUCCESSOR TO
"RED" STEFFEN, HE IS A FAR MORE OPEN AND MUCH LESS CYNICAL
MAN. HE IS ALSO AN ABLE ADMINISTRATOR AND A MAN WITH BOTH
CONVICTION AND COURAGE, HAPPILY TEMPERED WITH A SENSE OF
HUMOR. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT HE IS BOTH VERY BAD FOR
HELMUT SCHMIDT AND VERY GOOD FOR HIS COUNTRY. END SUMMARY.

2. JANSEN AND THE PARTY: TWO YEARS AGO (JUNE 8, 1975)
JOCHEN ("RED") STEFFEN RESIGNED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHLESWIG-
HOLSTEIN SPD AND HIS DEPUTY, GUENTHER JANSEN, THEN 38,
SUCCEEDED HIM. JANSEN, WHO WAS CHAIRMAN OF SCHLESWIG-
HOLSTEIN JUSOS 1967-1969, HAS CONTINUED, AS EXPECTED,
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DOWN THE LEFT RADICAL PATH FOLLOWED BY STEFFEN, A PATH
THAT HAS LED HIM INTO STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE FEDERAL
SPD LEADERSHIP, AN OPPOSITION HE MAKES NO EFFORT TO
AVOID, BUT HE WALKS IT WITH A DIFFERENCE.

3. ON JUNE 10 THIS YEAR, 69 MEMBERS OF THE SCHLESWIG-
HOLSTEIN SPD LAND COMMITTEE (THE TOTAL MEMBERSHIP IS

72; 70 WERE PRESENT) DECLARED THE TAX PACKAGE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL INTRODUCE IN THE BUNDESTAG TO BE UNACCEPTABLE. SHOULD SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN'S 10 SPD MEMBERS IN THE BUNDESTAG HEED THIS SENTIMENT AND VOTE AGAINST THE BUDGET, OR EVEN ABSTAIN, THE BUDGET WOULD BE DEFEATED AND THE GOVERNMENT IN BONN WOULD BE IN SERIOUS DIFFICULTY INDEED. AS ALREADY REPORTED IN REFTEL, THIS NEGATIVE ATTITUDE IS IN PART STIMULATED BY DISLIKE FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S ENERGY POLICY. (THIS WEEKEND THE SPD IN SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN WILL MEET IN REGULAR SESSION AND RE-ELECT JANSEN LAND CHAIRMAN - THERE IS NO OPPOSING CANDIDATE).

4. JANSEN THE MAN: I CALLED JANSEN LAST WEEK AND TOLD HIM I WOULD LIKE TO TALK WITH HIM, WHEREUPON HE INVITED ME TO LUNCH (MIRABILE DICTU, AT HIS EXPENSE) AND WE HAD A VERY PLEASANT, REFRESHING DISCUSSION. HIS IDEOLOGICAL CONCERNS ARE FAR LESS OBTRUSIVE THAN STEFFEN'S AND HE IS FAR LESS HAMPERED BY JARGON AND ACADEMIC POSTURING. ON THE CONTRARY, HE HAS AN OPEN, EVEN ROBUST MANNER, AND HAS QUITE A DISARMING SENSE OF HUMOR EVEN ABOUT HIMSELF. HE SEEMS TO BE A VERY HIGHLY MOTIVATED DEMOCRAT WITH A CONVICTION THAT THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL CITIZENS IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS IS THE SINE QUA NON OF POLITICAL HEALTH AND THE SURVIVAL OF DEMOCRACY, A CONVICTION HE HAS LIVED BY QUITE VIGOROUSLY IN THE COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY (GROSSGEMEINDE) OF SUESEL WHERE HE IS THE MAYOR WITH A TERM THAT DOES NOT END UNTIL 1982. IN THIS COMMUNITY (CONSISTING OF 12
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VILLAGES SPREAD OVER ABOUT 100 SQUARE KILOMETERS) THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES HAVE CONSTRUCTED NEW SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY HOUSING, PLAYGROUNDS, AND ROADS. THE LOCAL CITIZENRY PARTICIPATES NOT ONLY IN DECISIONS BUT IN SUPERVISING THEIR ULTIMATE IMPLEMENTATION AND THIS HAPPY CONTAGION HAS SPREAD EVEN TO THE SCHOOLS WHERE STUDENTS HAVE BECOME SO INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY PROJECTS THAT THERE HAS BEEN A DRAMATIC DECLINE IN JUVENILE DELIQUENCY AND THE USE OF DRUGS.

5. ALL IN ALL, JANSEN IS NOT WHAT I EXPECTED TO FIND, AND HE WILL NOT BE SHOVED ASIDE BY THE SPD ON THE GROUNDS THAT HE IS AN IDEALISTIC DREAMER OR A CRYPTO-COMMUNIST. HE IS SANE AND POPULAR AND MAY, THEREFORE, IN THE LONG RUN BE FAR MORE TROUBLESOME TO THE SPD'S HAMBURG MAFIA THAN THE OVERAGE COLLEGE STUDENTS WHO RUN AROUND URBAN GERMANY MOUTHING COMMUNIST SLOGANS.

6. WITH REGARD TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SCHLESWIG-

HOLSTEIN SPD COULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEFEAT OF
THE SCHMIDT GOVERNMENT, JANSEN SAID HE WAS NOT CONCERNED
WITH THE MAKING OR BREAKING OF CHANCELLORS. HE SAID
HE WAS TRYING TO ENSURE THAT POLICIES GOOD FOR THE
PEOPLE AND UNDERSTANDABLE TO THE PEOPLE ARE ADOPTED AND
THAT HE COULD NOT PURSUE THIS MOST IMPORTANT GOAL IF
AT THE SAME TIME HE HAD TO CONCERN HIMSELF WITH THE
NUANCES OF COALITION POLITICS IN BONN. HE SAID ALSO
THAT HE HAS NO PRECISE AMBITIONS FOR HIMSELF BUT THAT
SHOULD THE NEXT LAND ELECTION IN SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN
(SPRING OF 1979) MAKE A SPD-FDP COALITION POSSIBLE, HE
WOULD LIKE TO BECOME STATE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. KISELYAK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LEADERS, POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977HAMBUR00712
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770211-1243
Format: TEL
From: HAMBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770660/aaaacalr.tel
Line Count: 128
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b4a3c97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 HAMBURG 521
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2165506
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUENTHER JANSEN AND THE SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN SPD
TAGS: PINT, GE, (JANSEN, GUENTHER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b4a3c97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009